

Message Text

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ACTION IO-03

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5535

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

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AMCONGEN JERUSALEM

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

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LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UN, CY, XF

SUBJ: PALESTINE AND CYPRUS ITEMS ADDED TO 29TH GA AGENDA

1. GENERAL COMMITTEE DECIDED SEPT 19 TO INCLUDE PALESTINE AND CYPRUS QUESTIONS ON 29TH GA AGENDA. SINCE NO COMMITTEE MEMBER OBJECTED, VOTE WAS NOT TAKEN AND US DID NOT SPEAK. URGENTLY REQUIRE FURTHER VOTING INSTRUCTIONS ON CYPRUS ALLOCATION.

2. ISRAELI AND TURKISH PERMREPS BOTH ADDRESSED COMMITTEE.

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RULES OF PROCEDURE HAD TO BE WAIVED IN EACH CASE SINCE

NEITHER WAS MEMBER OF GENERAL COMMITTEE OR SPONSOR OF ITEM. (WITH COOPERATION OF LEBANESE AND GA PRESIDENT BOUTEFLIKA WE MANAGED AVOID CHALLENGE TO, AND DEBATE ON, ISRAELI REQUEST TO BE HEARD.) ISRAELI PERMREP TEKOAH TERMED INCLUSION OF PALESTINE ITEM SERIOUS SETBACK TO SEARCH FOR NEGOTIATED MIDDLE EAST PEACE AND BLOW TO EFFORTS TO SUPPRESS TERRORISM. BY HIS STANDARDS, STATEMENT WAS MILD. TURKISH PERMREP OLÇAY TOOK HARSH, CAUSTIC TONE. HE DISPUTED CYPRUS DEL'S CLAIM TO REPRESENT CYPRUS: CERTAINLY THEY DID NOT REPRESENT TURK CYPRIOTS, AND IT WAS UNCLEAR WHETHER THEY REPRESENTED MAKARIOS, CLERIDES, OR PERHAPS SAMPSON. FULLER REPORT OF DEBATE ON BOTH ISSUES BEING TRANSMITTED BY UNCLASSIFIED SUMMARY.

3. ALLOCATION OF TWO ITEMS WILL BE DECIDED SEPT 20. OUR EFFORTS TO PREVENT PALESTINE ITEM FROM BEING ALLOCATED TO PLENARY HAVE FAILED. WALDHEIM TOLD AMB BENNETT THAT BOUTEFLIKA WAS RECEPTIVE TO ARGUMENT THAT SECRETARY WAS PERSONALLY CONCERNED PLENARY CONSIDERATION WOULD ENDANGER ME NEGOTIATIONS. BOUTEFLIKA SAID HE TRIED TO PERSUADE PLO AND KEY ARAB STATES TO HOLD DEBATE IN COMMITTEE, BUT THEY WERE DETERMINED PRESS FOR PLENARY. IN SIDE REMARK, BOUTEFLIKA COMMENTED THAT IT WAS USELESS TO ATTEMPT INFLUENCE COURSE OF PALESTINE DEBATE THROUGH EGYPTIANS, SINCE THEIR CREDENTIALS HAD BEEN TARNISHED BY COOPERATION WITH JORDAN.

4. PER ASST SECRETARY BUFFUM'S TELEPHONED INSTRUCTIONS, WE INFORMED BRITISH, FRENCH, AND GERMANS THAT, IF ALLOCATION PRESSED TO VOTE, WE WOULD BE PREPARED TO ABSTAIN RATHER THAN VOTE AGAINST, AND ASKED THEM JOIN WITH US. BRITISH AGREED ASK FOR FRESH INSTRUCTIONS, FRENCH REFUSED AND FRG WAS VERY RELUCTANT TO VOTE OTHER THAN IN FAVOR. (IN OUR OPINION, POSSIBILITY OF ALLOCATION QUESTION BEING CHALLENGED AND VOTED ON REMAINS SLIM.)

5. ON CYPRUS, TURKS HAVE ASKED FOR OUR SUPPORT IN ALLOCATING ITEM TO COMMITTEE RATHER THAN PLENARY. THEY PLAN CHALLENGE PLENARY ALLOCATION, BASING THEIR ARGUMENT ON RULE 15, WHICH STATES THAT NO ADDITIONAL ITEM MAY BE CONSIDERED UNTIL A COMMITTEE HAS REPORTED UPON IT -- UNLESS GA DECIDES OTHERWISE
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BY TWO-THIRDS MAJORITY. RULE HAS BEEN LITTLE IF EVER CITED AND BOTH SECRETARIAT AND WE STUDYING ITS APPLICATION IN THIS SITUATION. IT MAY WELL BE THAT CHAIR WILL UPHOLD TURKISH CONTENTION, CYPRUS WILL CHALLENGE CHAIR'S DECISION, AND THAT QUESTION WILL BE PUT TO VOTE WHICH LIKELY GO AGAINST CYPRUS. WE WILL URGENTLY REQUIRE VOTING INSTRUCTIONS.

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